

# Experimental Mobile Decision Support Services (MDSS)

## Interactive NWS (iNWS)

### Background:

- The NWS is continuing to develop weather warning messaging services that leverage mobile device technologies such as Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) and cell phones, in order to better serve NWS core partners.
- This capability is provided on the MDSS (iNWS) webpage through a mobile alerting application. This application allows the user to choose to be alerted when various NWS products are issued for a user defined area.
- Short Message Service (SMS) **text and/or email alerts** will only be sent to users when an alert falls within the user's configured area of interest.
- Find more details within the ["Service Description Document"](#).

### Target Audience:

- Members of the emergency management (EM) community
- Government partners of NWS offices
  - FAA, [Land and Water Management \(Fire\)](#), etc.
- Certain members of the electronic media

### Establish an account – It's easy

- Go to: <https://inws.wrh.noaa.gov/alerts> and select "Register". (figure 1)

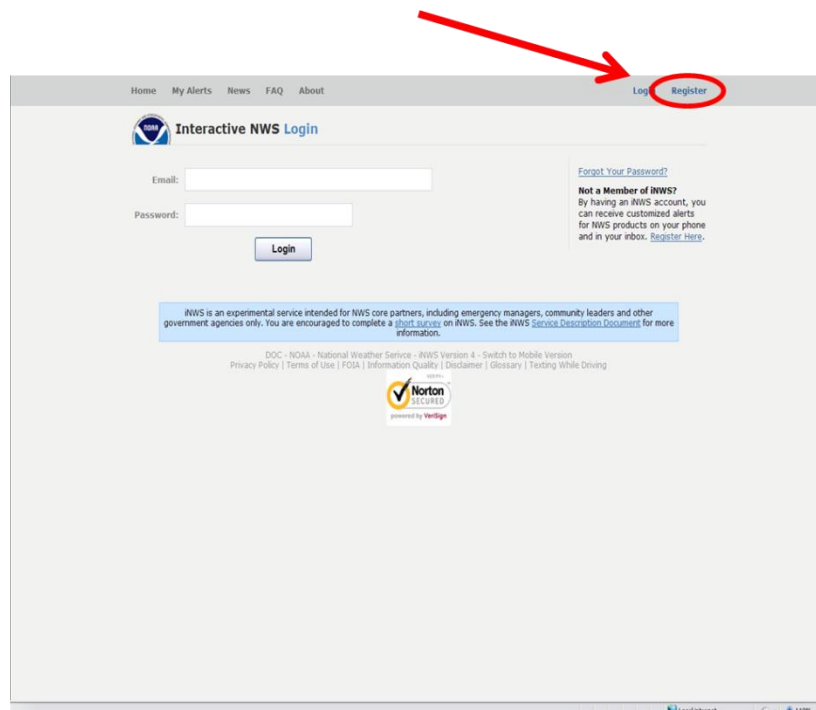


Figure 1

# Create Alert Areas

- Once account is created, login and click on “**My Alerts**” at top of main page.
- Then “**Add New Alert Area**” (figure 2)
  - Allows the user to define specific alert areas by city, state, line, point or polygon.

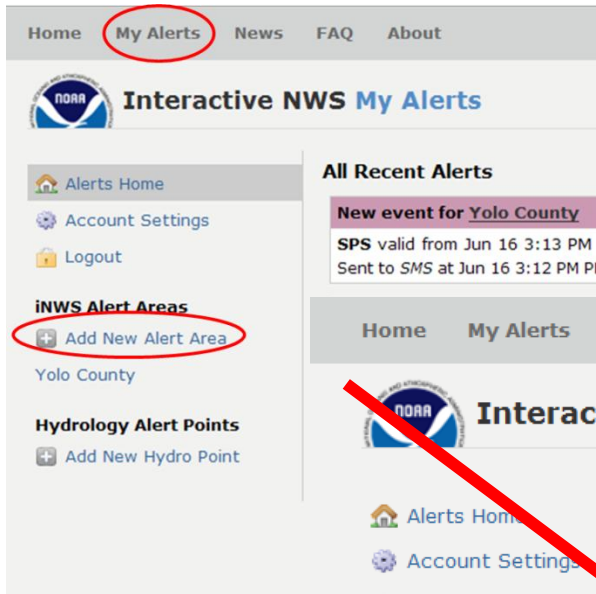


Figure 2

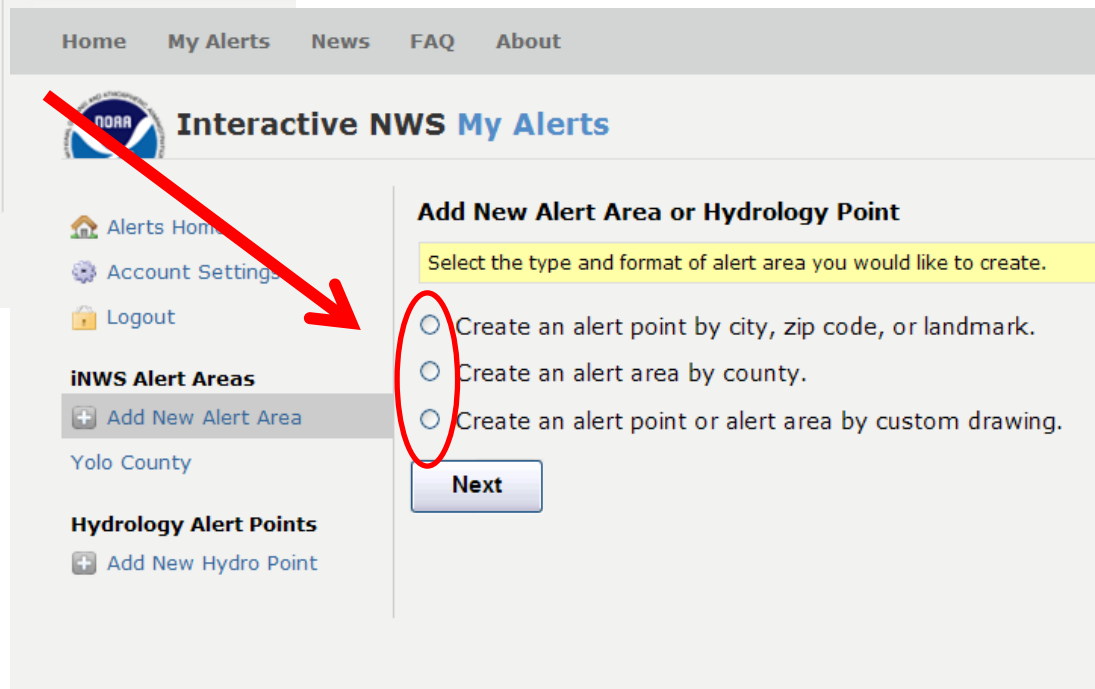
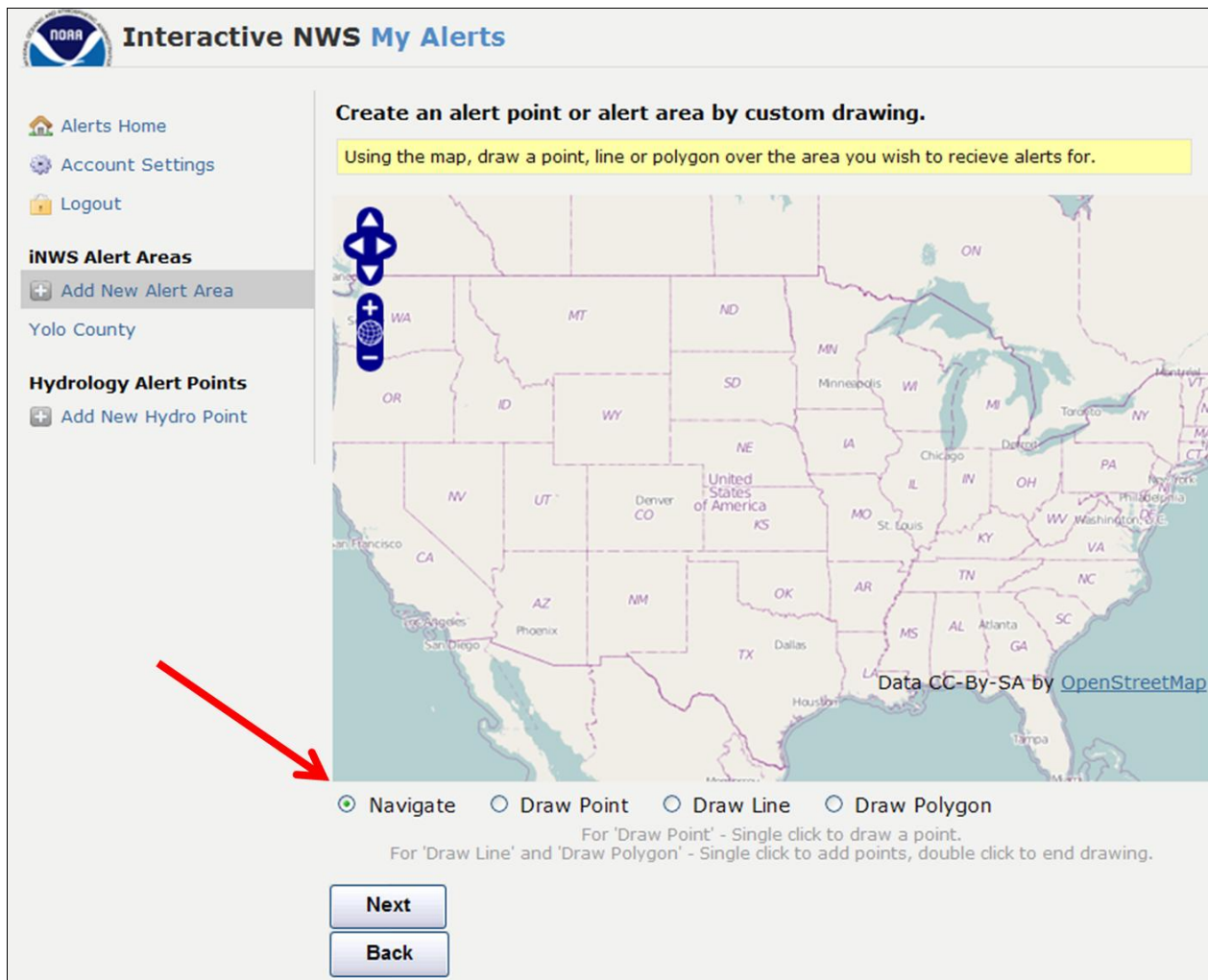


Figure 3

- Creating an alert area by custom drawing is just like drawing a polygon area in powerpoint.
- After selecting area type in figure 3, the “navigate” radio button (figure 4) will be toggled...leave as is. Note: Recommend using the third option, custom drawing.



**Figure 4**

- Zoom in to your area of concern, then select a drawing type (Again, we recommend “Draw Polygon”).
- Example: Draw a polygon (area) around your district and anytime certain NWS products are issued you will be alerted via text and/or email...however you set it up.
  - To draw: Left click and a light blue circle will appear and just drag and click the mouse around the edge of your defined area. It does not matter if you move clockwise or counter clockwise.
  - Once you complete the polygon (e.g. whatever shape you need), double click and the light blue polygon shape will turn dark blue (figure 5).
- Then click “Next” and the “Select Alert Area Options” screen will appear (see figure 6).
  - Select whatever weather categories are of interest to you.
- Select “Create Alert Area” box (figure 6).

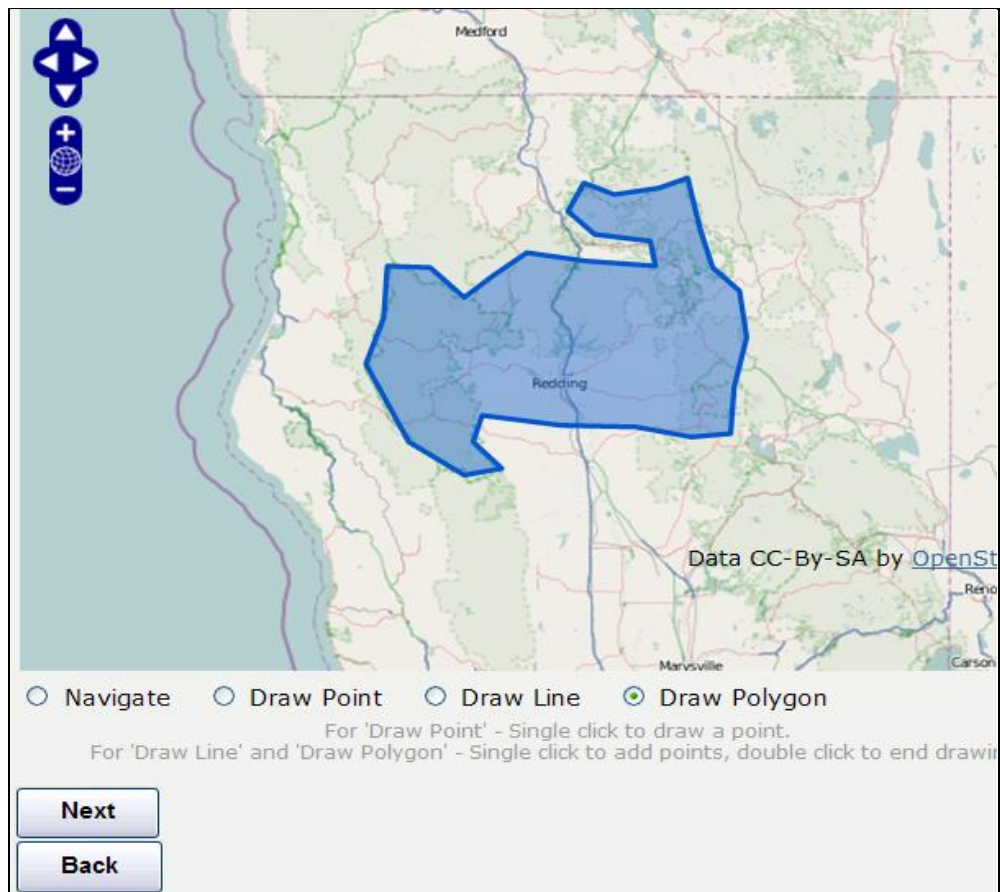


Figure 5

## Interactive NWS My Alerts

[Alerts Home](#)

[Account Settings](#)

[Logout](#)

### iNWS Alert Areas

[+ Add New Alert Area](#)

MNF

Yolo County

### Hydrology Alert Points

[+ Add New Hydro Point](#)

### Set Alert Area Options

Select which alerts you would like to receive for your alert area. For examples of what products are in what categories

**Feature Name:**

**Alert Categories:**

- ☐ Severe Weather
- ☐ Winter Weather
- ☐ Hydrology
- ☒ Fire Weather
- ☐ Marine Weather
- ☐ Coastal Hazards
- ☐ Tropical Weather
- ☐ Aviation
- ☒ Non-Precipitation
- ☐ Civil Emergency
- ☐ Other

**Create Alert Area**

**Back**

Figure 6

- When creating an iNWS Alerts area, what types of NWS products fall into each weather category? Also see [FAQ](#).
  - Severe - Severe Weather, Tornado (SVR, SVS, TOR, WCN)
  - Winter Weather - Blizzard, Snow, Winter Storm, Winter Weather, Ice Storm, Avalanche (WSW, AVA, AVW, SAB)
  - Hydrology - Flash Flood, Flood, Areal Flood (FFA, FFS, FFW, FLS, FLW)
  - Fire Weather - Red Flag, Rangeland Fire Danger (RFW, RFD)
  - Marine Weather - Lake Wind, Marine, Small Craft, Hazardous Seas (CWF, MWS, NSH, GLF, SMW, OFF, MWW)
  - Coastal Hazards - Tsunami, Costal Flooding, High Surf (CFW, LSH, TSU)
  - Tropical Weather - Hurricane, Tropical Storm, Hurricane Winds (HLS, TCM, TCP, TCV)
  - Aviation - Aviation Weather Warnings (AWW)
  - Non-Precipitation - High Wind, Fog, Frost, Freeze, Dust (NPW, ASA)
  - Civil Emergency - 911 Outage, Evacuation, HazMat, Nuclear, Volcano (CAE, CDQ, CEM, EQW, EVI, FRW, HMW, LAE, etc.)
  - Other - Special Weather Statement (SPS)

The follow questions reference figure 7.

- **How do you select the delivery method (text and/or email)?**
  - Select “Account Settings” on the left side of the iNWS webpage.
  - Select “Send alerts to email” and/or “Send alerts to phone as text message”, circled in red.
- **How do you edit or delete an existing alert area?**
  - Click on an existing edit area (circled in blue) and a screen will pop up and you can make these changes.
- **How do you remove your entire account from MDSS iNWS?**
  - Click on the “Remove My Account” button circled in green.

The screenshot shows the NOAA Interactive NWS Alert Settings page. On the left sidebar, the 'Account Settings' link is highlighted with a red arrow. Below it, the 'iNWS Alert Areas' section shows a list of areas, with 'MNF' (Yolo County) circled in blue and a blue arrow pointing to it. The main content area shows the 'Account Settings' form with fields for Password, Email (jason.clapp@noaa.gov), and Cell Phone Number. The 'Send alerts to email' and 'Send alerts to phone as text message' checkboxes are circled in red. A 'Submit' button is at the bottom. At the very bottom, the 'No longer want to use iNWS?' section has a 'Remove My Account' button circled in green. A green arrow points from the text 'No longer want to use iNWS?' to the button.

Figure 7

**Important note: Available only to NWS core partners...not the general public. The system could not handle the demand if it were available to everybody. Please ensure accounts are opened for only NWS core partners specified below.**

NWS core partners include (1) Members of the Emergency Management community at all levels of government; Federal, State, Local and tribal. Other members of this community include: safety and emergency personnel, from universities or other entities with large populations, whose roles are similar to the public safety officials. (2) Other government agencies: specific government partners NWS requires close coordination with, e.g. FAA officials (for NWS Center Weather Service Units) and water and land management officials (for NWS River Forecast Centers). (3) Members of the Electronic Media: parties who operate systems that routinely provide weather and water warning information rapidly to a significant part of the population served by the NWS.

We would greatly appreciate any feedback. Please contact Jason Clapp ([jason.clapp@noaa.gov](mailto:jason.clapp@noaa.gov)) for more details.